

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, September 4, 1887, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. (Early days in Baddeck) G.H.G. Baddeck, Sept. 4th 1887. My dear Mrs. Bell:

We are disappointed in not having heard from you since I last wrote. I hope there is nothing wrong. Surely there cannot be, or we should have heard, but we would like very much to hear just how you are and what you are all doing and thinking of. Do you still continue to enjoy Colonial Beach, and has it been as crowded as last year,— Another Camp Melville Bell?

My dear Mother and Father left us day before yesterday, and it seems an age already since they went and their stay like a day, so short it seemed. Every day and hour was crowded full of some new delight, and each night found us with half we wanted to do undone for lack of time. I really think Mamma and Papa enjoyed it nearly as much as we, and that they would have liked to stayed longer if they could have managed it. It was dreadfully hard for me to part from them and especially at this time when each day recalls sad memories and when they were going to the desolate home where the end began. I hope my Father will not be induced to change his mind and go West now as it would leave my Mother alone at the saddest time of the year, at present he intends to remain until Grace arrives and until he has established them in their country houses at Twin Oaks. Our own plans depend somewhat on theirs. If Mamma is to be left alone at Twin Oaks I want to be with her, if not we shall remain later in October. It is so lovely here we none of us like the thought 2 of leaving. The children are so well and happy especially now that they have my little cousins to play with, Dr. Marsh's sons, who are staying here while their father and mother and sisters are at a farmhouse near by. Dr. Marsh has just returned from a week's fish after salmon, but alas without one. He says they were plentiful, he saw them leaping in

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the sun but they were too shrewd to bite and he only brought home some small speckled trout, which however, is very good eating. Alec stayed on to be near my Father but went on to join the doctor yesterday and crossed him half-way so he staid overnight where he was and promised to return this evening. Then I believe he wants to go for a long farewell sail across the Big Big Bras d'Or with Mr. Kiegel and one of the sailors here for crew, and when he returns perhaps I will leave the children here with my Cousin Lina and go away with Alec for a little spree. He is full of an idea for rigging up a wagon-house and starting off for a few days into the interior. It has been quite cool lately, the long delayed terribly needed rains have been very plentiful now when they are too late to save most of the crops. They say there must be great distress here this winter in consequence. Good cows are selling now for \$18.00 and as one of the farmers remarked, later the people will almost pay us to take them as they cannot afford to keep them through the long winter and late spring.

Alec has bought the place on which our house stands as we cannot get into our own home on Red Head for another summer and we have improved it so much that it would be a pity not to get the benefit, but we are both of us afraid of the others showing too much affection for this place as we want to go over the bay.

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Dr. and Mrs. Marsh are as pleased with the place as even we could desire. I am only so disappointed that he should not have caught his salmon, that would I think have made the place perfect. They remain some time longer I believe and I am very glad for these boys are my little girls nearest male relations now and ever will be their nearest ones of the same age, and they will I feel sure always be the better for having them for true and dear friends on whose advice and kindness they can depend, where women friends could not help them. They are bright, manly, intelligent, handsome fellows, one twelve and the other four months older than Elsie, but not so tall or large, but much advanced in knowledge.

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It is nearly time for supper now so I must close, not however before saying again how I wish you could have come. My happiness in having my Mother's memory associated with our home here and in having her know all about it is so great that I long to have Alec share it with his own dear mother.

Your loving daughter, Mabel.